

**Tool 2(content).1. Slavin's *A Reader's Guide to Scientifically Based Research*; with Discussion Guide**

***A Reader's Guide to Scientifically Based Research***

(Slavin, Robert E. *Educational Leadership*, February 2003, pp 12-16)

As a district considers the selection of content for professional development, Robert Slavin offers suggestions to help educators understand the purpose for selecting content that has a scientific research base.

Read the article "A Reader's Guide to Scientifically Based Research" by Robert Slavin, and complete the discussion guide below. Use the discussion points to center the district's focus around the selection of content.

1. Robert Slavin argues there is a need for scientifically based research in education. What is his rationale?
2. In educational research, why are the use of control groups and random assignments of subjects to treatment conditions thought to increase the validity of results?
3. Discuss the pros and cons of using schools as opposed to teachers or students as the unit of measurement in educational research.
4. Choose one of the areas of "research to avoid" (p. 15) and try to generate an example among the members of your group.
5. Slavin believes that evidence-based reform can transform our schools. Do you agree or disagree? Explain your position.

As of April 2004, the Slavin article is available online at  
[http://www.ascd.org/publications/ed\\_lead/200302/slavin.html](http://www.ascd.org/publications/ed_lead/200302/slavin.html)  
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